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1. NATO COUNTRY REACTIONS TO ANNOUNCED BRITISH TROOP REDUCTION

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Comments of leading deputies from all parties in the West German Bundestag have revealed no great concern about the impact of announced cutbacks of British forces in the Federal Republic, according to the US embassy in Bonn. Chancellor Adenauer, however, was reported more disturbed than Defense Minister Strauss, who has prepared German opinion for this type of development by emphasizing the importance of "modern weapons" to a smaller force.

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The French have voiced concern over the substance of the British proposal, and feel that the cutback in British air strength is too drastic. The Dutch are alarmed at the effect of the action on their own defense build-up, and feel it should be phased to correspond to planned increases in German strength. The Belgians feel, however, that it would be a long time before West Germany could fill the void if the British withdrawals are followed by further European and later American defense reductions.

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3. SIX EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AGREE ON EURATOM AND COMMON MARKET TREATIES

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Decisions taken on 18 and 19 February by the foreign and prime ministers of Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands, which are already joined together in the Coal-Steel Community, have evidently cleared away the remaining obstacles to the signature of the EURATOM and common market treaties sometime in March.

The compromise agreements worked out--which must yet be elaborated in detail following ratification--are the product of very hard last-minute bargaining and reflect primarily a determination not to disagree. This is particularly the case with respect to the agreement on a five-year "trial" association of overseas territories with the common market and their joint economic development. Inclusion of French and Belgian African territories was achieved despite grave doubts about the political implications and a last-minute warning from London that this would prove a major obstacle to the projected free trade area linked with the common market.

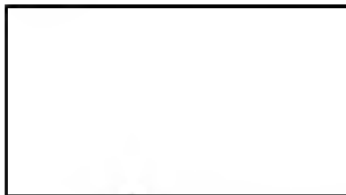
Prospects for ratification are favorable. The other countries will probably delay action pending French approval, but Premier Mollet hopes to have the National Assembly act before the Easter recess. A favorable vote in the Bundestag is expected by June or July. While the Dutch have strong misgivings about the treaties, no serious difficulties are expected in the Netherlands or in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Italy.

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4. ETHIOPIA AND SUDAN AGREE ON DEFENSE PACT AGAINST EGYPT

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Ethiopia's emperor has approved the text and accepted the obligations of a mutual defense pact with the Sudan, according to the Sudanese prime minister. The emperor does not consider this a propitious time for

signing the pact, however, for fear of its effect on relations with the Arab states, particularly Egypt. The emperor informed the prime minister that he nevertheless considered both countries to be bound by the pact.

The prime minister told Ambassador Pinkerton that he was sure that if Egypt had been successful against Israel in Sinai, the Sudan would have been next on Nasr's list.

Comment

A defense pact reflects the common fear of Egypt felt by both Ethiopia and the Sudan.

Addis Ababa is angered by Egyptian propaganda and subversive activities among Ethiopia's Moslem inhabitants. Successive Sudanese prime ministers have indicated their irritation with Egyptian interference.

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